

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Complete Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A traffic noise barrier wall comprising:

- a first vertically-mounted post including a first slot disposed therein, the first slot extending lengthwise along a side of the first post and having a first width;
- a second vertically-mounted post spaced apart from the first post, the second post including a second slot disposed therein, the second slot extending lengthwise along a side of the second post and having a second width; and
- a first panel assembly extending between the first and second posts and into both said first slot and said second slot, the first panel assembly including:
 - a sheet of material having top, bottom, and side edges forming a perimeter of the sheet, said sheet having a sheet thickness that is ~~substantially~~ less than each of said first slot width and said second slot width, and
 - a frame disposed along at least a portion of the perimeter of the sheet, wherein side portions of the frame include a base portion disposed along one of the side edges of the sheet and first and second flange portions projecting outward from the base portion on opposite sides of the sheet to define a channel between said first and second flange portions for an edge thickness and to captur[e]ing at least a portion of the side edges of the sheet, said frame having an overall thickness that is substantially equivalent to said first and second slot widths adjacent said base portion, said first and second flange portions each having a thickness, said overall thickness of said frame being substantially equivalent to a sum of said thicknesses of said first and second flange portions and said sheet thickness, wherein said thickness of each of said first and second flange portions is about 26 to 45 percent of each of said first and second slot widths~~wherein said base portion and said first and second flanges are formed from a single material and wherein said edge thickness is greater than said sheet thickness and less than said first slot width such that the~~

~~side portions of the frame are effective for being received within the first and second slots in drop-down fashion.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The traffic noise barrier wall of claim [3]1, wherein the sheet has a thickness less than a thickness of the first flange and less than a thickness of the second flange.

5. (Currently amended) The traffic noise barrier wall of claim [3]1, wherein an elastomeric gasket is disposed between the outer surfaces of the side portions of the frame and surfaces forming the channel.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The traffic noise barrier wall of claim 1, wherein an elastomeric gasket covers at least a portion of the side edge of the sheet captured within the channel.

9. (Previously presented) The traffic noise barrier wall of claim 1, wherein the base portion is disposed outside the entire perimeter of the sheet, and the channel formed by the base portion and the first and second flanges capture a portion of each of the top, bottom, and side edges of the sheet.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The traffic noise barrier wall of claim 9, wherein the first and second flanges disposed on each of the top, bottom, and side edges of the sheet are coupled to a surface of the base portion.

12. (Original) The traffic noise barrier wall of claim 9, further comprising:
a second panel assembly extending between the first and second posts, and the frame of the first panel assembly includes at least one of a protrusion and a recess disposed on the base portion for interlocking with the second panel assembly.

13. (Original) The traffic noise barrier wall of claim 1, wherein the sheet is formed from a transparent material.

14. (Original) The traffic noise barrier wall of claim 1, wherein the frame extends along the entire perimeter of the sheet and captures at least a portion of each of the top, bottom and side edges of the sheet.

15. (Currently amended) A panel assembly for a traffic noise barrier wall of the type including opposing slots formed in pairs of vertically-mounted posts, the panel assembly comprising:

a sheet of material having top, bottom, and side edges forming a perimeter of the sheet, said sheet having a sheet thickness that is ~~substantially~~ less than each of said first slot width and said second slot width, and

a frame disposed along at least a portion of the perimeter of the sheet, wherein side portions of the frame include a base portion disposed along one of the side edges of the sheet and first and second flange portions projecting outward from the base portion on opposite sides of the sheet to define a channel between said first and second flange portions for an edge thickness and to captur[e]ing at least a portion of the side edges of the sheet, said frame having an overall thickness that is substantially equivalent to said base portion, said base portion having a substantially triangular cross-section, and said first and second flange portions extending from an apex of said base portion~~wherein said base portion and said first and second flanges are formed~~

~~from a single material and wherein said edge thickness is greater than said sheet thickness and less than said first slot with such that the side portions of the frame are effective for being received within the opposing slots in drop down fashion.~~

16. (Canceled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) The panel assembly of claim [17]15, wherein the sheet has a thickness less than a thickness of the first flange and less than a thickness of the second flange.

19. (Currently amended) The panel assembly of claim [17]15, wherein an elastomeric gasket is disposed between the outer surfaces of the side portions of the frame and surfaces forming the channel.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) The panel assembly of claim 15, wherein an elastomeric gasket covers at least a portion of the side edge of the sheet captured within the channel.

23. (Previously presented) The panel assembly of claim 15, wherein the base portion is disposed outside the entire perimeter of the sheet, and the channel formed by the base portion and the first and second flanges capture a portion of each of the top, bottom, and side edges of the sheet.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Original) The panel assembly of claim 23, further comprising:
at least one of a protrusion and a recess disposed on the base portion for interlocking with
a second panel assembly.

27. (Original) The panel assembly of claim 15, wherein the sheet is formed from a
transparent material.

28. (Original) The panel assembly of claim 15, wherein the frame extends along the
entire perimeter of the sheet and captures at least a portion of each of the top, bottom and side
edges of the sheet.

29. (New) A panel assembly for a traffic noise barrier wall of the type including
opposing slots formed in pairs of vertically-mounted posts, the panel assembly comprising:

a sheet of material having top, bottom, and side edges forming a perimeter of the sheet,
said sheet having a sheet thickness that is less than each of said first slot width and said second
slot width, and

a frame disposed along at least a portion of the perimeter of the sheet, wherein side
portions of the frame include a base portion disposed along one of the side edges of the sheet and
first and second flange portions projecting outward from the base portion on opposite sides of the
sheet to define a channel between said first and second flange portions for capturing at least a
portion of the side edges of the sheet, said base portion having an external thickness that is
substantially equivalent to said first and second slot widths, and said channel having an external
thickness that is less than said first and second slot widths.